under discussion is reached by the countries participating in the project, *viz.*, Iran, Pakistan and India.

Further, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), GAIL (India) Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have signed Sale Purchase Agreements for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) on June 13, 2005 for import of total quantity of 5 million tonnes per annum (mmtpa) for a period of 25 years. However, Iran has taken the stand that the Agreements are not effective because of lack of approval by National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Ban on bio-diesel sale

2121. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a circular has been issued to ban the sale of bio-diesel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways and the Brihan-Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking have floated tenders for purchase of bio-diesel; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, all the State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to take suitable action in order to curb unauthorized marketing of bio-diesel for use as transportation fuel in terms of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Railways and the Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking have reported that they have floated tenders for the procurement of 50,000 KL and 3,300 KL of bio-diesel respectively.

This Ministry has clarified to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that Bio-diesel (B100) as per BIS specification IS 15607: 2005 is a blend stock for High Speed Diesel (HSD). As such, it is clear that B100, complying with IS 15607: 2005 is exclusively meant for being blended with diesel fuel (IS1460), within the prescribed limits. B100 is not a fuel authorized for use as fuel in any type of automobile vehicle fitted with spark ignition engine or compression ignition engine.

Rebate to BPL families on gas connection

†2122. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give rebate of one thousand rupees to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families on gas connection;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of BPL families expected to be benefited consequently?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Government is examining the possibility of extending one time financial assistance to cover the security deposit for one LPG cylinder and one Pressure Regulator to BPL families for converting from kerosene to LPG usage. The scheme is still in a conceptual stage.

Gas exploration by OVL

2123. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium led by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has abandoned its plan for exploration of oil from the Farsi block in Iran due to high sulphur content in the crude which makes commercial production unviable;

(b) whether the consortium is considering the option to retain the block for possible gas production;

(c) if so, whether the Farsi block is assessed to have adequate gas reserves to justify the investment by the consortium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No Sir. High Sulphur Content is not the reason for the oil field to be non commercial. ONGC Videsh limited (OVL) led consortia consisting of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has submitted a Feasibility Report for the oil discovery based on techno-economic considerations to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 26th November, 2008.

(b) to (d) Commerciality of the gas find of Fazad-B gas field of Farsi Block established by the OVL led consortia has been accepted by NIOC. This Gas Initial In-Place (GIIP) is estimated to be 12.5 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Master Development Plan (MDP) to develop the field is under finalization in consultation with NIOC. Preliminary estimated Investment as per MDP would be about USD 5.5 billion for sales gas option wherein Gas production is contemplated for a period of 30 years.

Bid by oil PSU in Gulf region

2124. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Technip and a well-known and established company in the field of engineering technology and project management for oil and gas industry world-wide, has recently announced in October, 2009 that in the coming six to nine months projects worth $21 billion would be awarded in Gulf region; and